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NEWS RELEASE

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FUGITIVE NABBED BY SACRAMENTO CITIZENS' CRIME ALERT PROGRAM GETS OVER NINE YEARS FOR IDENTITY THEFT CONSPIRACY

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that CURTIS LYNN MARTINEZ, 36, of Carmichael, California, was sentenced this morning by United States District Court Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. to 111 months in prison for conspiracy, bank fraud, aggravated identity theft, and possession of stolen U.S. Mail. MARTINEZ was also ordered to pay full restitution and a \$400 special victim assessment. He will be on federal supervision for five years following his nine year and three month federal prison term.

This case is the product of a combined investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, the Sacramento Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies in the greater Sacramento metropolitan area. In this case, the "Sacramento Citizens' Crime Alert Rewards Program" provided assistance to law enforcement leading to the arrest of the conspirators and to seizure of evidence. The Crime Alert Program is dedicated to helping the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and the Sacramento City Police Department apprehend the most wanted suspects in the City of Sacramento and its surrounding areas. Under the Crime Alert Program, citizens can receive a cash reward of up to \$1000 for information leading to the arrest of a suspect or information that solves an unsolved crime.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who prosecuted the case, in early February 2007, MARTINEZ was wanted for a parole violation. Law enforcement received tips in response to a Crime Alert Bulletin for MARTINEZ's whereabouts. Thereafter, as a ruse, law enforcement arranged to have MARTINEZ go to a motel in Sacramento. On February 7, 2007, MARTINEZ drove to the motel with a co-conspirator but fled upon detecting law enforcement. A high speed chase ensued, concluding with MARTINEZ's arrest. In MARTINEZ's vehicle, law enforcement found manufactured checks, social security cards of victims, ownership documents belonging to others, and numerous store receipts for fraudulent transactions.

Today, MARTINEZ was found to be the ringleader in a scheme to steal other persons' account information from rural U.S. Mail boxes and elsewhere and then create counterfeit checks with the information. MARTINEZ and his co-conspirators also created false driver's licenses and other identity information for use in cashing the fraudulent checks. His sentence was increased because he and co-conspirators victimized over 50 different Sacramento citizens.

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